

2/15/13

To: Appropriations Committee

From: Kelly Dorsey
Self-Advocate

Good evening Senator Harp, Representative Walker, Cathy Abercrombie and members of the Appropriations Committee. Hi, I am Kelly Dorsey, I receive services from the Arc of Meriden Wallingford and I serve on the Board of Directors. I am also an interim Self-Advocate Coordinator. I do not require a lot of support from DDS. I require only a couple hours of week for job coach supports for my job at ~~Stop and Shop~~ ^{Shop-Rite} which is only \$6,000 a year. I also have 8 hours of staff for the week to help me learn to become more independent and to do some recreation. I currently live with my mom and it gets very lonely without someone to do things with. According to the Lon rate I am a 4 so I should be able to get 2 more hours per week. I am waiting for the rate transitions to affect my rate. I also am able to stay at the respite center a couple times a year to give me and mom a break from each other. Since the cuts happened I can only go to respite on the weekends when I use to be able to go for 4 days. When you are making decisions please remember the adults and children who still live at home with our families and only need a little support to get by.